

what has since been transferred to *Gerbera* was *Arnica crocea*.—

EDWARD L. GREENE.

A NEW PANICULARIA.—**Panicularia Holmii.** A pale perennial 25–50 cm. high, spreading by rootstocks: leaves 4–6, scabrous; the upper ligule 5–7 mm. long; blades flat, acuminate, 4–12 cm. long, 4–7 mm. wide: panicle open, lax, 5–8 cm. long, rays in pairs, the longest 4–5 cm. long, bearing about 20 spikelets on the outer half: spikelets 2–3-flowered, joint of rachilla 0.5 mm. long; first empty glume hyaline, ovate, 1 mm. long with one obscure nerve; second, hyaline, oval, 1.3 mm. long with three obscure nerves: floret scabrid, oblong, 2–2.2 mm. long, floral glume broadly oval when spread, 5-nerved, apex subtruncate, irregularly toothed; paler while attached, extending to the apex of its glume: grain elliptical, 1 mm. long, base acute, apex truncate.

Near to *Panicularia pallida*; the blades wider, spikelets mostly 2-flowered, empty glumes shorter, floret shorter, floral glumes 5-nerved instead of 7-nerved.

Growing in a creek at a beaver-dam in dense thickets of *Salix*, near Lamb's Ranch at Long's Peak, Colorado; altitude, 8,600 feet.

No. 249. Collected by Theo. Holm, July 8, 1899, for whom it is named.—W. J. BEAL.

NATURALIZED OR ADVENTIVE NARCISSI.—Mr. C. L. Gruber writes as follows from Kutztown, Pa. "I have repeatedly found two species of *Narcissus* running wild, escaped from cultivation: *Narcissus Pseudo-Narcissus* (daffodil) and *Narcissus poeticus*. *Pseudo-Narcissus* I have found at a number of places, usually on warm slopes of meadows, in the vicinity of gardens; and *N. poeticus* I have found in meadows, unused portions of cemeteries and on one occasion in an orchard adjoining a garden."

REVIEWS

MYCOPHAGY AND ITS LITERATURE

Some five years ago an extensive interest began to be displayed in this country toward the subject of edible fungi. It is probable that a part at least of this interest was stimulated

through the influence of William Hamilton Gibson's popular articles and illustrated work,* and the interest was increased by the publication of the special edition of the report of the State Botanist of New York for 1894 † with numerous colored plates of edible and poisonous fungi. It was thought that the fad would soon die out, but, instead, the mycological clubs seem to be growing larger and the interest in their gatherings does not appear to show any signs of abating. It was further hoped that this widespread interest in this neglected group of plants would stimulate some to take up a scientific study of the fleshy fungi, but while a very few have made slight contributions, the many desiring entertainment rather than severe study, have contented themselves to remain mere mycophagists instead of taking mycology too seriously. To appeal to this latter class of readers, four works have recently appeared. That they all appeal to eye and stomach as well as brain is evidenced by their profuse illustration, their chapters on how to cook the delectable mushroom, as well as by their assumption of scientific or pseudo-scientific diagnoses.

Of these books, two may be quickly dismissed. The modest little work of Misses Dallas and Burgin ‡ purports mainly to give the beginner in the study of the larger fungi the results of the recent field experiences of its authors. The ponderous volume by McIlvaine §, while it will doubtless prove the most useful of the entire series because of its covering a much wider range of descriptions of species than any of the others and freely quotes descriptive matter from original sources, is more or less uncertain and unreliable because one is often left in doubt where the quota-

* GIBSON. Our edible Toadstools and Mushrooms and how to distinguish them. 8vo. New York, 1895.

† PECK. Annual Report of the State Botanist for 1894. 4to. Albany, 1897.

‡ DALLAS & BURGIN. Among the Mushrooms. 7.5 × 5 × 0.875 in. Pp. xi + 175. With 11 full-page plates, two colored, the others half-tones. Weight 15 oz. Drexel Biddle, Philadelphia. 1900. Price, \$1.50.

§ MCILVAINE. One thousand American Fungi. How to select and cook the Edible; how to distinguish and avoid the Poisonous. 11.25 × 8.25 × 3.5 in. Pp. xxxvii + 704. Illustrated with 193 "plates" of which 128 are simple text figures, thirty are full-page diagrams or half-tones and thirty five are colored. Weight, 122.5 oz.—about that of a Winchester repeating rifle. Bowen-Merrill Co., Indianapolis. 1900. Price, \$10.00.

tions end and the less reliable remarks of the author commence. As a work intended for practical use it is a clumsy product of the bookmaker's art* as wretchedly adapted to its purposes as any botanical work that the past century produced.

The other two works however are the ones between which the mycophagic public will be more likely to choose, for at this public it is evident that their respective authors have clearly aimed. Of the two, Professor Atkinson's work † is more technical, for it is not easy for the professional botanist to lay aside the technicalities of his office in appealing to a popular audience. Yet a mixture of too technical science and recipes for cooking jars one's sensibilities of congruity, seeming to bring the kitchen in too close proximity to the laboratory. The work is admirably illustrated with photographs in half-tone and seven colored plates. The cover ill accords with the contents and the paper used is of the glossy clay-covered form so common in our time, which serves to bring out the half tones well, but ill comports with fine bookmaking and lessens the prospect of durability. The descriptions are very complete and accurate, giving details that were evidently drawn from long and close acquaintance with the specimens in their native haunts.

The work by Miss Marshall ‡ is a practical well-written text shorn, as far as possible, of technicalities, prepared to accompany reproductions of what are without question the finest series of fungus photographs that have been produced. These were made by Mr. J. A. Anderson, of Lambertville, New Jersey, and colored

* In quoting titles of books hitherto it has usually been sufficient to mention the superficial area of the cover. As these works ought to be such that they can be used afield, it is thought desirable to add the third dimension so that bulk may be computed, as well as the important consideration of weight.

† ATKINSON. *Studies of American Fungi. Mushrooms, edible, poisonous, etc.* 10 × 6.5 × 1 in. Pp. vi + 275. Illustrated with 223 figures, 76 of them full-page plates, seven colored. Weight, 38.5 oz. Andrus & Church, Ithaca. 1900. Price, \$3.00. Reviews of this book by its own author appear in *Science*, 23 N. 1900, and in *Popular Science Monthly*, F. 1901.

‡ MARSHALL. *The Mushroom Book. A popular Guide to the Identification and Study of our commoner Fungi with special Emphasis on the edible Varieties.* 11 × 8 × 1.25 in. Pp. xxvi + 167. Illustrated with forty eight full-page plates, twenty four of them in colors, and numerous text illustrations. Weight, 42 oz. Doubleday, Page & Co., New York. 1901. Price, \$3.00.

by his daughter, Miss H. C. Anderson. Twenty four of these have been reproduced in color, none of which equal the superb originals, though a few, like those of *Amanita muscaria*, *Pholiota adiposa*, *Boletinus pictus*, and *Phallus*, approach them. Others like *Tricholoma personatum* and *Clavaria formosa* are too highly colored and the defective reproduction of backgrounds in some cases detracts from the good illustration of the fungus itself. The work makes no claim to be coldly scientific but depends for its technical descriptions on those who have originally made them. As a piece of artistic bookmaking the Mushroom Book shows superior workmanship. Fine quality of paper, excellent printing, and plain but effective cover make the work attractive externally and internally, while its clear and simple text is not aimed above the heads of the audience to which it primarily appeals.

In both works are occasional slips of the pen and verbal inaccuracies which future editions will doubtless correct. Through both it becomes clearly evident that the camera is the scientific instrument by which we must attack the problem of bringing to the laboratory the characters of the perishable fleshy fungi.

But after all that is said, for the practical purpose for which these books are intended, namely the enlightening of unscientific people as to what are edible and what are poisonous fungi, none of the American books yet touch the standard * set by the Germans at half the price, where in place of attempts to force science on unscientific minds, in place of heavy books adapted best for library tables, we have fifty-six colored plates (nearly all of which are of species as common in America as in Europe) put up in a form adapted for the pocket and for work afield, with plain descriptions of the fungi one is sure to meet with in the field and forest, and with no entanglements of rare or new species or elaborate keys and array of technicalities; for after all the mycophagist must learn edible fungi as he learns garden vegetables—by sight—and then eat them by faith!—LUCIEN M. UNDERWOOD.

* MICHAEL. Führer für Pilzfreunde. 8.25 × 5.5 × 0.5 in. Pp. xi+31. With 56 colored plates with descriptive text opposite each for ready reference. Weight, 11 oz. Zwickau, 1897. Price, 6 marks (\$1.50).